DAWN

KARACHI Monday, November 17, 2025

METRO South

KARACHI

Sunset	05:45pm
Sunrise (Tomorrow)	06:49am

NEXT 24 HRS

Minimum	15°C
Maximum	31°C
Humidity	34%
Outlook	Sunny

Pakistan complete ODI clean sweep with six-wicket win over SL

Pg.18 SPORT

Breakdown at Dhabeji station causes water shortage

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Many areas in the city are likely to face an acute water shortage on Monday (today) due to a power breakdown at one of the key pumping stations of the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) that has caused a shortfall of 100 million gallons of water per day (MGD).

In a statement, a KWSC spokesperson said that a major power breakdown hit the Dhabeji Pumping Station at 6:35am. "Due to the sudden power suspension, 72-inch line No 5 has been affected, while four pumps shut down," he said.

"According to initial estimates, the city could face a shortage of 100 MGD due to the pumps' shutdown and the line being impacted," he said.

While the KWSC did not mention the areas to be affected due to the shortage, previous power breakdowns at the facility had impacted supply to areas in the East and Central districts.

The statement said the repair work of the affected line had been initiated and the KWSC's technical teams were "utilising all resources in making every effort to restore the water supply from the affected line".

According to the statement, the restoration work is expected to be completed by Monday (today), after which the entire system of the Dhabeji station will be operational again as usual.

The KWSC claimed that electricity at the Dhabeji station had remained suspended for many hours on Nov 5, Nov 11 and Nov 13 due to a "cable fault of K-Electric".

However, the KE had blamed "leakages" in the KWSC's water pipelines for damaging the underground electricity cables.

A TROUPE from the Philippines stages a folk dance performance during the ongoing World Culture Festival at the Arts Council of Pakistan, Karachi.—Dawn

HIV found in children previously treated at hospital in SITE

• Local political activists put their heads together after first case of infection confirmed in 18-month-old girl • Over 15 HIV cases found after Valika Hospital administration persuaded to screen children treated there • Govt official says health dept 'focusing' on treatment and prevention

By Imran Ayub

KARACHI: A serious health crisis, involving children as young as one year, is brewing in the impoverished and densely-populated neighbourhood of SITE Town where more than 15 children have been diagnosed with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) over the past few weeks with at least two fatalities during the same period while the number of the affected children is still rising.

At the centre of the crisis is the Kulsum Bai Valika Social Security SITE Hospital, commonly known as Valika Hospital, in SITE Town, where the children treated for different health complaints over the past few months have been diagnosed with HIV.

It all emerged recently when people of the neighbourhood with the help of their local government representatives and political leadership of the locality took a solid stand when they learnt about the dark reality.

"In August 2025, an 18-month-old girl fell ill. She was admitted to the Valika Hospital," said Irshad Khan, vice chairman of SITE Town's UC-1, which comprises Pathan Colony and Bawani Chali areas.

"However, her weakness and fever persisted, after which she was taken to a private hospital. Doctors at the private hospital suspected that the child might have some other serious issue. They conducted several tests, after which she was diagnosed with HIV. When the private hospital doctors inquired about the child's prior treatment, they were informed that she had earlier been treated at the Valika Hospital. It rang alarm bells. We set up a five-member committee on our own comprising leaders of all political parties working of the area — the Jamaat-i-Islami, PPP and ANP."

The committee led by Mr Khan — who himself belonged to the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf — has since been aggressively pursuing the management of the Valika Hospital to conduct screening of those children of the UC who have been treated at the facility over the past few months. It was found that at least 18 of them were HIV-positive.

"But the problem is that despite severity of the issue, we don't see any seriousness and urgency in the hospital management while the health department seems least bothered about it," he said.

"We [the committee members] visit the hospital almost daily, but hardly anyone responds. We want every child, at least those who have been treated here since August 2025, to be screened. Currently dozens of children have gone through tests and 18 of them have been diagnosed with HIV. They are aged between one to nine years. On the other hand, hundreds of children are still there roaming in streets, living in houses or going to schools in the impoverished locality. This revelation could only be the tip of the iceberg. We need to take this situation seriously and devise an urgent and aggressive strategy. But authorities are not cooperating."

Authorities respond

Responding to *Dawn* queries,

Continued on Page 14

Clifton residents protest against 'encroachments' in public parks

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Residents of Clifton staged a demonstration in front of Bagh Ibne Qasim in protest over encroachments and commercialisation of public parks.

Carrying banners and placards inscribed with slogans against the city mayor and operations of padel courts in public parks, the protesters, including women and children, were also joined by local Jamaat-i-Islami leadership.

Speaking on the occasion, JI-Karachi chief Monem Zafar said that Karachiites would not tolerate encroachment on any park, including Bagh Ibne Qasim.

"We stand firmly with the residents. We will resist, struggle and also approach the courts to ensure Karachi's parks remain protected from land mafias," he said.

Leader of the Opposition in City Council Advocate Saifuddin said the city's expensive land has become a prime target for mafias, and Clifton's parks are under direct threat.

He noted that conspiracies were being hatched against Bagh Ibne Qasim as the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation (KMC) had demolished its boundary wall. He also criticised the mayor's justification that the park's walls were demolished to reveal the "beautiful view" inside.

He insisted that the walls had already been designed to allow visibility, making their demolition unnecessary and suspicious. "This clearly strengthens concerns about an attempted land grab," he said.

Later, the residents and JI leaders staged a rally Bagh Ibn-e-Qasim to the main gate of the Beach View Park.

Worker dies in restaurant fire

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: A teenage worker died in a huge fire that erupted in a restaurant in the Tariq Road area on Sunday, officials said.

Rescue-1122 spokesperson Hassaan Ul Haseeb Khan said the fire broke out following a blast in the air-conditioner's compressor on the roof of the building housing the famous eatery Ghaffar Kabab House within the remit of the Ferozabad police station.

Area SHO Tariq Mehmood told *Dawn* that the AC's outer unit was placed on the rooftop and it caught fire. The blaze spread and engulfed a family room where three employees of the restaurant were present. Two of them managed to go outside but the third one became unconscious after inhaling smoke and died of burns.

The victim was identified as 18-year-old employee Sajjad Sadiq. He was taken to the Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

The rescue official said that three fire tenders rushed to the scene and managed to control the fire after hectic efforts lasting for around three years.

The SHO said the police called the parents of the victim and if they wanted to pursue the case legally, then an FIR would be lodged.

Besides, he said, the police are also waiting for the final report of the fire department regarding the exact cause of the fire. He was the police would act if any negligence on part of the owners was found.

'Teaching in child's own language improves understanding in classroom'

SPELT Conference concludes; panel highlights challenges in translating nuanced terms and ensuring equity in education

By Shazia Hasan

KARACHI: The second and concluding day of the 41st Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (SPELT) International Conference 2025 at Habib University on Sunday began as well as ended with a focus on learners' language, translations and translanguaging.

The keynote address by Professor Emeritus TESOL, UK, Dr Graham Hall was about 'Using the Learners' Own Language(s) in the ELT Classroom: What, Why, When?'

Until recently, the assumption underpinning much of the methodological literature of language teaching has been that new languages are best taught and learned monolingually, without the use of the learners' own language(s). "But now, however, a re-evaluation and recognition of own-language use has begun.

"The monolingual assumption and emphasis on English-only teaching have been increasingly questioned, alongside the realisation that own-language use has continued in many classrooms around the world, no matter what the literature said," pointed out Dr Hall.

The concluding session of the day was a panel discussion on 'Translation and Translanguaging for Access and Equity in Education: Opportunities and Challenges' moderated by SPELT Vice-President Dr Fauzia Shamim, with Aga Khan University's Institute for Educational Development Dean Dr Farid Panjwani, CEO Oak Consulting Dr Fatima Dar and head of Literacy and Life Skills at The Citizens Foundation (TCF) Adeel Baloch as the panellists.

While shedding light on translations, Dr Panjwani spoke using examples. "In the context of words such as '*ishq*', '*mohabbat*', '*chahat*' and '*pyaar*', which are very nuanced words for which you have a limited vocabulary in English, you either use one word such as 'love' for all, or maybe use 'affection', which doesn't actually capture the true meaning of the words. So you have to use full sentences to make sense of the word," he said.

"Sometimes your choice of words can also go wrong. For example, the term 'secular'. In Urdu, it gets translated as '*ladeeni*', which is absolutely not the right way of putting it because '*ladeeni*' makes

Continued on Page 14

Murad wants work on infrastructure projects expedited

Karimabad underpass achieves 85pc progress, mayor tells CM

By Our Staff Reporter

KARACHI: Sindh Chief Minister Syed Murad Ali Shah directed authorities concerned for swift completion of the Korangi Causeway, Shahrah-i-Bhutto and the Karimabad underpass projects.

Accompanied by Senior Minister Sharjeel Memon, Local Government Minister Nasir Shah and Karachi Mayor Murtaza Wahab, the CM undertook an extensive inspection of the three projects to review the progress.

According to a press statement, his focus was on eliminating bottlenecks and ensuring that these vital urban mobility corridors are delivered to the public without further delay.

The inspection began at the Korangi Causeway, where reconstruction and elevation work are underway to make the route resilient against seasonal flooding and repeated closures.

CM Shah expressed serious concern over the prolonged inconvenience to commuters and the vital industrial sector. "Korangi Causeway is a vital artery. Its repeated closures cause immense hardship for the public and disrupt Karachi's economic activity," he said.

The chief minister instructed the LG minister to immediately increase manpower and equipment on the project site. "Stop working in segments, work in full force. I want steady, visible progress every single day," he directed.

He also stressed the need for better coordination with the traffic police to ensure smoother diversions until the causeway is fully operational.

The CM then proceeded to the Murghi Khana segment of the 15 km-long Section-I of Shahrah-i-Bhutto. Minister Nasir Shah briefed him that 98 per cent of physical work had been completed, with only finishing touches remaining.

He inspected the completed portions and said: "It is an important corridor for the people of the city. Complete the remaining work quickly so we can open it fully to the public by December 2025 or January 2026," he instructed.

He directed the project director to immediately begin signboard installation and landscaping. "Traffic flow must improve, and the public should feel the difference the moment this section opens," the CM said, insisting on final quality checks before formal opening.

The chief minister also visited the Samo Goth Segment of Shahrah-i-Bhutto, where the elevated portion was under construction. He directed the project director to speed up the work so that it could be opened for traffic within the next two months.

During his visit to the under-construction Karimabad underpass, the CM demanded round-the-clock work on the much-delayed project designed to ease

Continued on Page 14

WORK in progress on the Karimabad underpass project.—PPI